

SUPERINTENDENT DENISE JUNEAU ANNOUNCES MULDOWN SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS

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Muldown School in Whitefish, MT received a statewide award for its healthy, homemade school lunch program. The Healthier Montana Menu Challenge (<http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/healthiermt.html>) recognizes exceptional school meals programs. Muldown School successfully met a challenging list of menu criteria to qualify for the award. The menu criteria ensure school menus reflect the dietary guidelines by serving more fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grain, lower fat entrees, legumes, and low fat milk choices. Muldown School is the fifth Montana school to receive this prestigious award.

"One of our main goals has been to try to remove the preservative-filled processed foods by making more items from scratch. Our kitchen staff has been great in implementing these changes. Sometimes they think I'm crazy when I tell them we're putting yams in the grilled cheeses and making spaghetti sauce with red lentils but they always give it a chance," said Jay Stagg, Muldown School Nutrition Director.

Muldown School serves more than 6,000 lunches each month. The award-winning menu is served district wide, allowing all students healthy options. Muldown Principal Jill Rocksund said, "Our parents really appreciate the improvements that Stagg and his staff have made. Their children are getting healthier lunches and more students want to eat our hot lunch."

"My grandmother was a school cook for 28 years. She understood that serving nutritious choices at school lunch provides the brainpower students need for academic success while teaching them an important lifelong skill – learning to eat healthy," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau.